Star
3/28/67

Garrison Acts to Seize Two As 'Plot' Probe Witnesses

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison moved on two fronts today to get witnesses he wants in his Kennedy assassination probe.

The district attorney's office issued a warrant yesterday for the arrest of Lilly Mae McMaines, 2?, of Omaha, Neb., as a material witness.

The U.S. attorney's office here was asked by Garrison to issue an unlawful flight order against Gordon Novel, 29, former owner of a French Quarter bar who disappeared last week before he was to have appeared before the Orleans Parish grand jury.

Would Bring FBI In

If U.S. Atty. Louis LaCour honors Garrison's request, it would bring the FBI into the search for Novel.

"I think it is very odd that Novel can be found by newspaper and television media and not by the people who are trying to arrest him," said Assistant Dist. Atty James Alcock.

There was no immediate word from LaCour's office about the request and an FBI spokesman declined to comment about Novel.

Novel has made statements to newsmen in Columbus, Ohio, and Washington, D.C., calling Garrison's probe a fraud.

Novel is believed to be in the Washington area now.

Some federal authorities are known to look upon Garrison's investigation with a cold eye. The Warren Commission, named by President Johnson to investigate the assassination of President John F. Kennedy in Dallas, Tex., Nov. 22, 1963, concluded that Lee Harvey Oswald was the assassin and acted alone.

Warrant Issued

Garrison's office issued a warrant for Novel's arrest last week and asked that he be placed under $50,000 bond.

Perry R. Russo, 25, a Baton Rouge insurance salesman, said Mrs. McMaines, then known as Sandra Moffett, was one of several persons attending a party in the New Orleans apartment of the late David W. Ferrie in mid-September 1963.

After this party, Russo testified two weeks ago, he heard Ferrie, Oswald and Clay L. Shaw conspire to kill President Kennedy.

Shaw, 54, a retired New Orleans business executive, has been indicted by the grand jury on a charge of conspiring to murder Kennedy.

Mrs. McMaines, married to parttime Omaha minister Harold McMaines, 48, told reporters last week she did not attend the party but had known Russo.

Criminal Dist. Judge Edward A. Hoggerty Jr., who will conduct Shaw's trial, signed the warrant for Mrs. McMaines as a material witness and set bond at $5,000.

—AP

GORDON NOVEL

In Bismarck, N.D., Davis R. Kroman, an attorney claiming to have documents proving Kennedy was the victim of a conspiracy, yesterday was sent to a mental institution for examination after he testified at an unrelated trial of his alleged harassment.

Declares Mistrial

Kroman, 43, one of 17 defendants in a $3 million insurance fraud, told a U.S. District Court judge he was forced off a highway yesterday morning as he drove to Bismarck with documents that "tend to prove or in some cases do prove that (Lee Harvey) Oswald did not assassinate Kennedy and that other persons did."

Judge Edward Devitt, hearing the case on a change of venue from Minneapolis, promptly declared a mistrial of Kroman's portion of the trial and ordered the defendant committed to the Federal Penal Hospital at Springfield, Mo., for mental examination.